



TRAIL WALKER

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference – Maintaining 1,700 Miles of Foot Trails

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New Catskill Trail Connects LP to Devil's Path

By Pete Senterman, Catskills trails chair

Volunteers in the northern Catskills have opened up a new three-mile trail that connects the Warner Creek Trail/Long Path directly to the Devil's Path on Plateau Mountain. For Long Path hikers, this extension over Daley Ridge eliminates a five-mile detour that included a road walk along Rt. 214. It also creates a 23-mile section of Long Path from Phoenicia to Platte Clove without a road crossing.

The new extension picks up in Silver Hollow Notch and heads north, steeply zig-zagging up to the relatively flat top of Daley Ridge. From the tranquil evergreen summit of Daley Ridge the trail drops down into a narrow col from which it ascends the south slope of Plateau Mountain through the "Dark Woods," a very dense fir and spruce section of forest. It soon joins the existing Devil's Path.

The new trail leads to many beautiful wilderness views of Olderbark Mountain and the headwaters of Warner Creek, never before readily accessible. On the highest viewpoint many of the Catskill high peaks, from Ashokan High Point to Belleayre, can be seen over the top of Daley Ridge. The natural beauty of the region with its shaded hardwood terraces, dark fir-spruce forest, natural rock walls, moss covered erratics, fern meadows, and a small spring (only water along trail), combined with the sound of silence broken only by the melody of song birds and breezes, provides the hiker with an enjoyable walk.



PETER SENTERMAN

The three-mile path extends over Daley Ridge, above, and offers great wilderness views.

A day loop is possible by parking a car at the end of Notch Inn Road. Hike up the old eroded road to the Long Path-Warner Creek trail crossing in Silver Hollow Notch (about 0.75 mile). Take the blue-marked trail left (north) to the Devil's Path and Plateau Mountain. Turn left (west) on the Devil's Path to Route 214 and the Devil's Tombstone state campground. Walk south on 214 to Notch Inn Road and back to your car. There is a daily parking fee at the campground during the summer months when it is open. If more than one car is available for a short shuttle, the total walk may be just under six miles; the full loop is about eight miles.

The new trail required a five-year approval process in Albany; the go ahead was given in early 2006. Most of the trail was scouted and flagged that year, with opening delayed by the April 15, 2007 ice storm. Blow-down had to be removed before final connections could be made to the existing trails at each end this spring.

Cal Johnson and Doug Egeland deserve the bulk of the credit for getting the trail in place. Chris Olney and his Catskill Mountain Club put in a substantial effort in cutting the trail. Approximately 450 volunteer hours went into making this a reality.

Ramapo 2007: It's Over! It Was Great!

By Ellen Cronan

Ramapo 2007 was billed as eight days of fun, and although I only participated in five of those days, it was the best New Jersey (and New York) vacation I've had in a long time. People traveled from around the country and around the world to participate in the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's 36th Biennial Conference, hosted in July by the NY-NJ Trail Conference at Ramapo College. The event had a packed schedule of workshops, hikes, excursions, trail work, entertainment, including a 2000 Miler Reception, and the biennial meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

I went on three hikes during the conference and met a tremendous bunch of people. The circuit hike through Harriman had two gents from Connecticut who only stopped talking on very steep climbs. They had hiked in the area before but were very interested in the history of the park and read to us from my copy of *Harriman Trails: A Guide & History*. The trip to the Newark Watershed had a mixed group of locals, former locals visiting from out west, and eastern seaboard folk. The group was delighted with the rhododendron and mountain laurel woods but seemed surprised at the rugged terrain available in New Jersey. The most popular hikes were sections of the AT as many section hikers attend the biennials to round out their mileage and simplify their logistics. I led a hike in the Kittatinnies, where the section



JEAN-CLAUDE FOUJERE

Hikers from all over explored our region's trove of trails. Above, a group on the Crows Nest at Storm King State Park.

hikers were surprised that the Pennsylvania rocks continue in New Jersey, but aren't quite as razor sharp.

The biennial conference was described in local papers as a conference for the gray-haired set. While I found this to be true, it is a very active set. My oldest hiker was a 79-year-old woman from Tennessee who had no trouble keeping up with the group despite the rough terrain. And when we were greeted with intense thunderstorms one morning, there was still a large group of hardcore hikers eager to hit the trail.

Despite the great hiking, the highlight of the event for me was the trail building workshop I attended on grip hoists. It was run by THE Lester Kenway, the back-country, trail building innovator from Maine. Mr. Kenway worked in Baxter State Park for more than 20 years, inventing methods for building trails in barely accessible locations. He runs a "hobby

company" that provides tools and support and is a supplier to NY-NJ Trail Conference. It was a tremendous experience learning from The Expert and even better to participate in a field demonstration.

The organizers of Ramapo 2007, all volunteers, are probably relieved that the event is over, but I will find it hard to wait for the biennial conference to be back in our neck of the woods. [Editor's note: The next ATC biennial will take place in 2009 in Vermont.]

A Day in the Life of a (New) AT Corridor Monitor

By Ollie Simpson and Bernd Lohner

Some trail volunteers swing a sledge hammer or brandish loping shears. But not all. Bernd Lohner of Cortlandt, NY, recently found his volunteer niche as an AT corridor monitor, an ideal match for this fan of geocaching and bushwhacking. On May 26 Bernd met Ollie Simpson, AT Supervisor for the Nuclear Lake section, on the AT in Dutchess County to begin his on-the-trail job training. Below, Ollie documents their treasure hunt for witnesses and monuments (see definitions) and Bernd reflects on his first trail volunteer experience (see page 3).

Definitions: A *monument* is a survey marker, on the AT usually a metal medallion stamped with the segment number, state, and sequence number and buried in the ground. A *witness* is a referent point for a monument; on the AT witnesses are typically three marked trees. *Tree stands* are platforms built in trees from which hunters target prey, usually deer. Such structures are not permitted in the AT corridor, a unit of the National Park Service.

Ollie's Diary

8:00am I brought survey maps, witness info, trowel, tape measure, and clipboard with forms for reporting. Bernd brought his GPS. I explained briefly how to read the survey map and witness info. The goal was to walk as much as possible the AT boundary west of Nuclear Lake between Penny Road and Rt. 55. We would locate and inspect the boundary blazes and monuments on the AT corridor boundary.

8:45 Arrive at starting point on Penny Road. Begin walking the boundary

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Volunteer puts geocaching skills to work.

TRAILWALKER

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Mission Statement

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a federation of member clubs and individuals dedicated to providing recreational hiking opportunities in the region, and representing the interests and concerns of the hiking community. The Conference is a volunteer-directed public service organization committed to:

- Developing, building, and maintaining hiking trails.
- Protecting hiking trail lands through support and advocacy.
- Educating the public in the responsible use of trails and the natural environment.

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From the Chair

The Ultimate Trail Magic

Most hikers, especially Appalachian Trail (AT) hikers, have heard the term *trail magic*. It refers to unexpected acts of generosity that aim to help long-distance hikers: giving a hiker free food, a ride, or lodging—usually, food. Trail magic is dispensed by *trail angels*, people who love the AT and enjoy enhancing the experience of hikers. Their gifts, even the smallest ones, are appreciated and over time they have become an integral part of long-distance hiking on the AT.

At the general meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) at Ramapo 2007 in July, Laurie Potteiger, ATC's information services manager, spoke about trail magic. She noted that the scale and scope of trail magic along the AT—some *magic* can now even be labeled as events—has increased dramatically in recent years, to the point that ATC has developed "friendly suggestions for doing trail magic in the most constructive ways."

Trail magic has garnered so much attention, in fact, that these days almost anything you hear or read about the AT mentions it. Laurie noted that one troubling result is that the importance of volunteers too often goes unnoticed. "At the ATC headquarters," she reports, "the question asked is not, 'Where is volunteer work needed most?' but 'Where is trail magic needed most?'" The number of trail angels has increased over time, but the number of volunteers has not.

As Laurie stated to loud applause, "It is time to say, in a very public way, *Volunteer work is the ultimate trail magic*. It's magic for the recipients—hikers. It's magic for the person doing it—the volunteers. But what is more extraordinary is that volunteers made the Appalachian Trail possible in the first place. You may get really tired and dirty, but the sense of satisfaction that comes from maintaining a trail, working on a trail crew, or monitoring a boundary,

cannot be rivaled. When you've done these things, you've done trail magic for a thousand people, and you've helped ensure the AT's existence for future generations."

Laurie's words found a receptive audience at Ramapo, where discussions in workshops centered on the future of volunteerism for the AT. But of course her words apply to all trails and their builders and maintainers. At the Trail Conference, we know that our mission of maintaining almost 1,700 miles of trails, including the AT in New York and New Jersey, is accomplished by a large and generous roster of trail angels. We embrace the idea that volunteering for trails is the ultimate trail magic.

— Jane Daniels
 Chair, Board of Directors

Find trail magic suggestions at
www.appalachiantrail.org/trailmagic

Letters to the Editor

The following is a copy of a letter sent to the New York Times in response to their July story about the ATC Biennial.

I deplore the sneering tone and superficial view evident in your story on the Appalachian Trail Conservancy meeting. You might have said something about the vast program presented during the week, excursions in addition to hikes and workshops, a total of hundreds of events, ALL of them planned and run by volunteers.

Indeed, the Appalachian Trail is a shining example of American volunteerism at its best. DeTocqueville would be proud of us. This NATIONAL PARK is maintained entirely by 5,000+ volunteers. At least one young attendee at the conference stated that her favorite three activities of the week were "trail work, trail work, trail work."

— Mary R. Sive
 Montclair, NJ

Send Us a Letter

Email it to tw@nynjtc.org; in the subject line, put "letter to TW editor"; or send it to Trail Walker Letters, NY-NJ Trail Conference, 156 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430.

The Trail Blazer Society

The majority of the monetary support for the services the Trail Conference provides to the public comes from the generosity of individuals who make financial contributions above and beyond their annual dues. Donations from these dedicated individuals enables us to continue to train and support the volunteers who carry out our mission of building and maintaining hiking trails and protecting the lands they traverse.

The new Trail Blazer Society, formerly the Torrey Society, recognizes and honors those individuals who support the Trail Conference's activities with annual donations at the highest levels. There are three levels of membership in the Trail Blazer Society and the greater your support, the greater the benefits. The levels are:

Trail Partner	\$250 - \$999
Trail Steward	\$1,000 - \$2,499
Trail Champion	\$2,500 or more

Benefits of being in the Trail Blazer Society include:

- An exclusive Trail Conference polo-shirt
 - Invitations to special outdoor activities
 - Complimentary one-year Family Membership
 - And much more
- (visit www.nynjtc.org/committees/development/trailblazer.html for a complete listing of benefits)!



The easiest way to become a Trail Blazer is through our new monthly giving program. This reliable funding provides the Trail Conference with the resources it needs to continue supporting the volunteers whose efforts keep your favorite trails open and passable. You can become a Trail Blazer by donating as little as \$21 a month. Just complete the form below and you'll automatically become a member of our special giving club.

This authorization to charge my monthly pledge to my credit card will remain in effect until I notify the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference that I wish to end this agreement and the Trail Conference has had a reasonable amount of time to fulfill my request. Each transaction will appear on my regular credit card statement. (Please keep a copy of this authorization for your records.)

Please select a monthly pledge amount:

- \$84 - automatic enrollment in the Blazer Society as a Trail Steward
 \$21 - automatic enrollment in the Blazer Society as a Trail Partner
 \$_____ Other

Please select a payment method: Visa Amex Master Card

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

For a complete list of the benefits or to enroll in a monthly giving program, please contact Joshua Howard at josh@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348, ext. 13, or visit www.nynjtc.org/committees/development/trailblazer.html

Trail Conference Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 20 at
 Camp Glen Gray in Mahwah, NJ

9:00am	Pancake breakfast
10:00am	Annual meeting including election of board members and delegates-at-large, presentation of awards
11:30am	Hikes
3:00pm	Refreshments and social time

Please RSVP online at www.nynjtc.org or by calling 201-512-9348 so we know how many pancakes to make. Directions to Camp Glen Gray will be posted online.

Nominees for the Trail Conference Board

Robert Boysen, Daniel Chazin; Ellen Cronan; Josie Gray; Peter Kennard; and Mary Smart.

Nominees for Delegates-at-Large

Robert Berlin; David Bertollo; Carolyn Canfield; Harvey Fishman; Clifford Gerenz; Suzan Gordon; Jill Hamell; John Jurasek; Harold Kaplan; Jeffery Marino; Peter Kohlberger; Toby Golick; Mark Liss; Steve Galla; Margo Moss; George Petty; Karen Rose; Trudy Schneider; Naomi Sutter; Peter Tilgner; Robert Ward; Richard Zinn; Henry Zulauf.

Award Nominations Requested

Members may nominate individuals for Trail Conference awards. Award winners are honored and recognized at our Annual Meeting. Cut-off date for recommendations is September 12, 2007. Send recommendations (with supporting statement) to: nominations@nynjtc.org; put "Nominating Committee" in subject line. OR mail to: Nominating Committee, NY-NJ Trail Conference, 156 Ramapo Valley Road (Route 202), Mahwah, NJ 07430-1199.

TC Awards are:

Raymond H. Torrey Award: for significant and lasting contributions
Ken Lloyd Club Award: for exemplary service by an individual to his/her club
Major Welch Trail Partner Award: recognizes assistance by a non-TC partner
William Hoeflerlin Award: for exemplary service to trail maintenance, management, and/or trail land protection
Paul Leikin Extra Mile Award: for exemplary commitment to a 3-5 year project
Next Generation Award: for those under age 21 who make a significant contribution to trails
Corporate Partner Award: for outstanding service to hiking community
Honorary Membership: recognizes long years of service to the Trail Conference

— George Becker Jr.,
 Chair, Nominating Committee

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www.NYNJTC.org

From the Executive Director

"Appalachian Trail Grows Older, and So Do Its Hardy Supporters."

So read the headline of a *New York Times* story covering the AT Biennial conference we hosted at Ramapo College in July. The reporter went on to say that it was "another snapshot of the graying of America." This, in turn, stirred the ire of long-term member-volunteers like Mary Sive. (See Letter to Editor.)

In truth, while the reporter's brief stint during the eight-day conference meant that he missed many young participants like the 20 teenagers from Ossining, NY, attending workshops at Bear Mountain, he did correctly state that the largest number of attendees were in the 60-69 age range. This age skew has long been a source of concern, especially among the aging volunteers.

Indeed, several workshops focused on strategies for attracting families and youth to volunteering and hiking.

Personally, I'm not concerned if our member/volunteers comprise an older than average demographic. People are most likely to volunteer when they simultaneously have the time and the motivation. People are motivated to get involved at various times and for various reasons but it is later in life that they are more likely to find the time. In an era when work schedules are longer and commuting more difficult, the logical result is that more of our volunteers are retirees and empty-nesters. In fact, I think the Trail Conference's volunteer-powered mission could be well-served by the current influx of baby-boomers with more free time.

On the other hand, I am very concerned about the motivation part of the volunteer equation. The number of young hikers, campers, and other foot powered outdoor enthusiasts seems to be declining. From all accounts, growing up in the past several decades has not involved, on average, the quantity and quality of outdoor time as was the case in the 1950s and '60s. A perfect storm of shrinking open space, electronic

diversions, and mass media heightening the fears of over-protective parents has made it much more difficult for the average kid to engage in free play outdoors. It's not easy being green for a kid these days.

These trends are thoroughly documented in Richard Louv's 2005 book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*. In a chapter titled, "Where Will Future Stewards of Nature Come From?" he cites research showing that environmentalists' childhood experiences of nature were "significant precursors for adult activism on behalf of the environment."

Recognizing the importance of the formative experiences of childhood, we all must work to ensure that there is a future political constituency to follow in the boomers' footsteps. And, because it is never too late to fall in love with nature, we need to make sure that path is welcoming to all that would follow, regardless of age, ethnicity, or ability.

Working with our park partners to make sure there are ways to experience nature regardless of the users' expertise or expectations is a key part of the solution. We need to provide trails for beginners, as well as opportunities for more challenging experiences.

Most importantly, we need to provide ample information so that hikers can be well-informed. Trailhead kiosks should act

as virtual camp counselors, dispensing all the information needed for responsible decisions. Back-country ridge runners like we field on the Appalachian Trail in New Jersey should work with rangers in each park to educate and inform the hiking community and make their trips more enjoyable and memorable.

Right now, we have ample volunteers to make our parks and open space more inviting and enjoyable to a whole new generation nature enthusiasts. Our challenge is to attract youth, new immigrants and other non-hikers to enjoy our open spaces and to sustain an environmental constituency in the future.

The Trail Conference's unique blend of full-bodied, sensory experience of the outdoors with political activism and direct service has stood the test of time. We are activists *and* volunteers and we literally blaze a path for others to connect with nature and to serve it. Thank you, as a Trail Conference supporter, for joining us in the important and little recognized effort.

— Ed Goodell, goodell@nynjtc.org



A DAY IN THE LIFE

continued from page 1

toward the first monument (269-NY-46D). Boundary paint is excellent. Found two witnesses but could not locate the monument after digging where it should be. Report "Not Found" and continue.

9:15 Swampy area. So far boundary line has been well marked and we've found the monuments without difficulty. After the swamp the boundary paint is faded, but we can follow it and also find monuments easily.

10:15 Following a stone fence and see excavation for a new home. It is not encroaching on AT lands but is very close to the boundary. Make note to put up US Boundary marker.

10:25 This monument is in a stone wall. Which rock has it? Time to take off backpacks and get out witness info and tape measure. After measuring, Bernd says "It should be right under your backpack!" And it was.

10:30 Time for a snack. I learned that Bernd was born in Munich a few weeks before my eldest son was born in Augsburg, Germany. And that Bernd is a software tester, which was my work before retirement.

12:00pm Faded paint has been replaced with axe blazes with a little red paint, from early '80's survey, and sometimes faint yellow. Time for a quick lunch as the insects bite when you are still.

1:30 Axe blazes have little or no paint and are difficult to follow. Sometimes they are close together and other times we lose the boundary and have to search to relocate it. Fortunately, Bernd has his GPS, so we can keep the appropriate direction and know when we are close to the next monument.



Bernd locates boundary markers using GPS technology and survey records (above) and posts signs (next column).

2:00 We know there is a monument at a stone heap. But which stone heap is the question. Eventually I find two faint yellow witness marks. Out comes the witness info and tape measure. As we dig, pieces of flagging tape appear and are an encouraging sign. Success.



2:30 We spot a tree stand inside NPS property and attached to a tree with a US Boundary marker. Bernd climbs it and undoes the lock and straps. We leave it on the adjoining property with a note "No Hunting" and a NY-NJ Trail Conference Volunteer business card.

3:00 The clues to monument locations have disappeared along with almost all paint on the boundary axe blazes. The GPS greatly helps. This monument was almost missed. As we searched for clues, Bernd finally saw the edge of a US Boundary sign under a rotted tree trunk on the ground. Nearby, he found the monument.

4:00 This monument is in a stone heap. We search for axe blazes and check for stone heaps that look man-made. Bernd checks the witness info; one witness is a twin oak. Bernd finds a twin oak with an axe blaze. Then we find another axe blaze nearby. The monument must be between the two. Bernd digs at a stone heap and finds it—the most time consuming one to find today.

5:00 We are dirty, sweaty, and tired. The next monument is at a right angle turn. We find an axe blaze in the new direction. Walking back to the corner, Bernd spies some old flagging tape on the ground. He quickly uncovers the monument (269-NY-24).

5:01 We decide to walk east to Beekman Uplands Loop Trail to get back to the Rt. 55 parking area. Bernd is ready for his rib dinner and I want a shower. We saw the work of Millbrook Scout Troop 31 on the trail; thank you for trimming brush and removing the logs across the trail.

5:40 Bernd gives me a ride in his convertible (top down) to my car at Penny Road.

Both of us enjoyed the day's challenges of staying on the boundary and finding the monuments. Our success was due to GPS, persistence, and luck. We walked over five miles and found 32 monuments; the only "Not Found" was the first. We used about 500 feet of flagging tape to temporarily mark the boundary as well as the monument locations. Bernd will

return to walk the rest of his area as well as paint the boundary blazes and photograph the monuments. I hope he also finds the AT bandanna I lost.

If you are interested in walking with an AT corridor monitor or becoming one, contact Heidi Adami at adami@nynjtc.org.



Bernd Lohner (left) learned how to monitor a trail corridor while hiking with Ollie Simpson.

Bernd on Learning the Ropes

As a kid growing up in Germany close to the Alps, my parents dragged me all over the mountains. That was enough for me for a long time.

But over the last few years I rediscovered a passion for hiking and the outdoors. This was aided by geocaching. For me hiking and geocaching are the perfect combination—getting me outdoors and helping me to discover great new areas. It wasn't long until I joined the Trail Conference, and about two years ago I started saying to myself, "I would like to give back, maybe volunteer." The thought came and left multiple times—I always argued with myself, ending with, "Not now, later in life will be time for it."

Then in April of this year I stumbled across an email looking for AT corridor monitors. Reading the description I immediately got interested and Googled for more information. What I read really appealed to me. It looked like an opportunity to do useful work outdoors for the Trail Conference, get me away from the beaten path (did I mention that I love to bushwhack?), and let me employ my map reading and GPS skills (the latter turned out to be extremely useful). So I replied.

Thanks to my spam-filter I didn't get the first response back from Ollie Simpson, but she tried again and I caught the second email. Ollie volunteered to train me on the job. When I arrived at the Rt. 55 AT parking area shortly before 8:00am that Saturday in May, I didn't have a clear idea of what would await me, but I had my hiking boots, a pack with food and water, and my GPS. Ollie was already there and gave me a warm and friendly welcome. She explained the basics while we were in the lot, handed me survey maps, witness charts, and legends, and off we went in her car to the other end of what would become "my" boundary line.

She showed the first survey monument to me and explained more as we went along. I had a wonderful time learning and exploring, coupled with immediate success when I found the first buried monument myself. By the end of the day we had walked about half the boundary and I was hooked. I knew this was the right assignment for me and that I had found a way that I could give back. I returned the very next Saturday and continued along the line—almost finished the first walkthrough.

There is a lot more work to be done—a lot of fading paint to be refreshed, pictures to be taken, and the boundary to be monitored—and I am looking forward to it.

— Bernd Lohner

Conservation & Advocacy



From the Conservation & Advocacy Director:
William P. O'Hearn

The Tragedy of the Commons, and the Community of Trails

Much has been written about what economists and conservationists call "The Tragedy of the Commons," which is the tendency of human beings to grab as much for themselves as possible when confronted by a resource that is not owned by a single individual or entity. A good example of this is the cod fishery off the coast of New England, where fisher-

men exploited this common resource so relentlessly that they destroyed the ability of cod to replenish their numbers, and thus effectively put themselves out of business.

Water is the next major resource to find itself on the firing line on a local, regional, national, and international basis as rival users pump groundwater or divert surface water as fast as they can so that they extract their share before the other guy gets his. A multi-year drought finally convinced northern New Jerseyans that this free-for-all over water resources had to end, which is why the state legislature passed and Governor McGreevey signed the Highlands Act in August 2004 to limit new development in critical water resource areas.

Conservation & Advocacy News Notes

Get timely news about trail issues by subscribing to the TC monthly e-newsletter and/or action alert list. Go to www.nynjtc.org/emaillists/index.html.

TC Awarded \$15,000 for Shawangunk Ridge

The Trail Conference has received a \$15,000 Land Conservation Transaction grant from the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Northeast Program to assist in the clean-up of our LaFarge property along Route 209 in Mamakating, Sullivan County, New York. This western spur of the Shawangunk Ridge Trail (SRT) lies at the confluence of the D&H Canal and the abandoned Port Jervis branch of the New York, Ontario & Western (O&W) Railway. The rail-trail runs south through Wurtsboro Ridge State Forest and meets the SRT just north of Route 17. This funding will allow the Trail Conference to remove garbage and other dumping from the site so that it can be sold and turned over to NYS DEC and added to the state park system.



NJ Voters Must Approve Preservation Trust

While the legislature failed to place a full renewal of Garden State Preservation Trust on the ballot this November, they did pass legislation the third week in June that provides one year of stop-gap funding to maintain the widely popular and successful Green Acres, Farmland Preservation, and Historic Preservation programs, as well as dedicate funds to begin the Blue Acres program, which will purchase flood-prone properties. This legislation places a question on this November's ballot that asks voters to authorize the state to issue \$200 million in general obligation bonds to continue to fund these vital programs for one year. While we work to secure a dedicated funding source for the long-term, we also need to ensure that this November's ballot question passes overwhelmingly. Not only will its passage secure \$200 million in funds, but it will send a clear message to the state legislature that the renewal of the Garden State Preservation Trust is a top priority of the residents of New Jersey.

More \$\$ for NY Environment Projects

New York State's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) will increase from \$250 million to \$300 million by 2009. On July 18 Governor Spitzer signed the EPF Enhancement Act into law, which provides for additional deposits from the Real Estate Transfer Tax (RETT) to be made to the EPF. The legislation passed the Senate and Assembly in late June. The Trail Conference and ADK strongly advocated for the passage of this important legislation.

Given this dark side of human nature, it was refreshing to attend my first Appalachian Trails Conservancy Biennial Conference at Ramapo College this July. Being surrounded by thru-hikers who have made the 2,175-mile AT trip from Georgia to Maine or the reverse, I was struck by their generosity of spirit and their belief in "trail magic," or small kindnesses provided for others along the trail. They are also incredibly devoted to the AT, and to sharing their trail values and standards with local trail designers to ensure that they measure up to the AT.

The core concept of this trail ethic is to "Leave No Trace," which means that hikers must leave the trail and surrounding area cleaner and better for the next person to come through. In a similar fashion, the goal of our trail designers and maintainers is to provide million-dollar views from

scenic outlooks that don't cost anybody anything. As a hiker, your willingness to walk and your ability to read a map and follow a system of blazes is the price of admission. And, out in this "commons" of open space, there is no one there to tell you what to do or to enforce the rules – we have to count on you to act responsibly as part of the hiking community that cares about the land.

The good news is, this decentralized model of cooperation works extremely well, and has worked since 1920. So, when we are fighting destructive development and shaking our heads at the greed of some individuals, let's also remember this loose network of maintainers and hikers, quietly watching over a huge system of pathways through the forest, preserving them for visitors they will never see and for future hikers they will never meet.

Highlands Trail Threatened in Chester

A proposed 157-lot development in Chester would wipe out a section of the Highlands Trail (HT) run right through the middle of this proposed development just south of Goose Pond Mountain State Park, but some lots are planned to completely obliterate the HT where it runs along McGuinnessburg Mountain Road, not far from the Appalachian Trail. After a presentation by TC staff member Brenda Holzinger at its July 18 meeting, the Chester Planning Board agreed that the project's Draft Scoping Document must "address preservation of the existing Highlands Trail through the project site." Contact Brenda Holzinger at the Trail Conference office (holzinger@nynjtc.org, or 201-512-9348, ext. 25) if you would like to be part of the effort to protect the Highlands Trail in Chester.

Westchester, Putnam Counties Get New Open Space Tool

The New York State Legislature has passed the Hudson Valley Community Preservation Act (HVCPA), which authorizes towns and cities in Westchester and Putnam counties to establish community preservation funds through the imposition of a small real estate transfer fee, of up to two percent, on the portion of the sale price over the municipality's median price. (At the time this article is being written, the Governor has not yet signed this legislation into law.) The local tax must be approved by voters through a referendum. The legislation originally included Orange and Rockland counties but these counties were written out of the legislation late in the session. The legislation can be amended in next year's session to include these counties and others if there is enough support. The Trail Conference and ADK strongly advocated for this legislation. The lower Hudson Valley has been particularly affected by rapid growth and development. This legislation will allow the voters in these communities to decide their future direction themselves. Five communities on eastern Long Island already have this opportunity.

For more information about these and other trails related issues, go to www.nynjtc.org/issues/advocacy.html

Contributors to this column:
Brenda Holzinger, Marisa Tedesco



Trail News

Get timely trail news by subscribing to the TC monthly e-newsletter. Go to www.nynjtc.org/emaillists/index.html

Pipeline Work Underway in Sterling Forest & Harriman State Parks

A natural gas pipeline that extends through portions of Harriman and Sterling Forest State Parks is being replaced this summer as part of the Millennium Pipeline project. Some trails may be disturbed and occasionally closed during this project, which, according to a Millennium newsletter, is expected to continue in the parks this summer and fall.

In Harriman, the following trails either cross or are immediately adjacent to the pipeline at one or more points: Kakiat, Triangle, Ramapo-Dunderberg, Blue Disc, Pine Meadow, Stony Brook, Seven Hills, Hillburn-Torne-Sebago, Raccoon Brook Hill, and Suffern-Bear Mountain Trails. In Sterling Forest, the Allis Trail and Sterling Valley Loop will be affected. The AT also will be affected but not closed.

Trail Conference area supervisor John Mack reports that according to project managers, the trails will generally remain open, though they may be disturbed. Construction may require occasional trail closures. For information about the status of specific trails on specific days, call the park superintendent's office: 845-786-2701.

At the June 14 meeting of Trail Conference delegates, PIPC Executive Director Jim Hall noted that the typical construction work area within the two parks will be 75 feet wide; this area will be cleared and graded to create a safe work zone. According to a project newsletter, an additional 25 feet of ungraded temporary storage space will be used to stockpile logs, branches, brush and excess rock. Within the 25-foot temporary storage area, ground disturbance will be minimized, and Millennium intends to avoid removal of any mature trees. The pipeline corridor through the parks is on nearly eight miles of right-of-way and associated construction areas.

The Millennium consortium also says that after the pipe is installed and the trench is backfilled, they will complete rough and final grading and standard restoration of the construction work area. This includes re-grading the construction work area to preconstruction contours as close as practicable; dispersing rock and brush; installing permanent erosion and sediment control devices; fertilizing, seeding and mulching the construction work area. Some of this work will be completed in 2008.

Short Reroute on Blue Disc Trail

Due to heavy clearing activity on the pipeline in Harriman State Park (see first previous item), a 200-yard length of the Blue Disc Trail has been temporarily rerouted a short distance to the west of the right-of-way. The reroute begins a few hundred yards uphill from the Johnsonstown Road trailhead, across from the pipeline distribution station, where the trail is identified with a laminated sign posted on a tree. Blue flagging tape leads from there, roughly parallel to the pipeline, to reconnect to the current Blue Disc Trail at the top of the hill, where there is another sign posted for hikers arriving from the north. Hikers are requested to use the temporary reroute and avoid the pipeline. Also note the possibility that the reroute will be extended from the pipeline station south to Johnsonstown Road between the stream and the current trailhead location to avoid the short road walk that now experiences some traffic.

All Catskill Trails Open

Pete Senterman, Catskills trails chair, reports that blow-down from the April 15 ice storm in the Catskills has been cleared and all trails are now passable.

Bridge Finished at Storm King

The Stillman Trail Bridge in Storm King State Park is now passable, having been rebuilt by the West Hudson North crew.



New HTS extension is between the arrows.

HTS Trail in Harriman Extended

In order to reduce hiker confusion, mishaps around the Ramapo Torne, and inadvertent walking into homes in Sloatsburg, the Hillburn-Torne-Sebago Trail (HTS) (orange blazes) has been extended to be co-aligned with and to overmark the unofficial "Old Red" trail, which had been marked red or red with a white border. The HTS extension, length 0.8 miles, now extends west from the top of the Ramapo Torne, descends steeply down the western slope, and then turns north on a woods road. It then continues north on the woods road, without any elevation gain, until it ends at the Seven Hills Trail, where the latter comes down off Ramapo Torne and turns sharply north on its way back to the Pine Meadow Trail and the Reeves Meadow Visitors Center.

continued on page 10

TRAIL U

Teaching Practical Skills to Trails Volunteers at Locations Throughout the NY-NJ Area

Unless otherwise noted, register by contacting: Heidi Adami, Volunteer Coordinator, at 201-512-9348 ext. 26, adami@nynjtc.org.



New volunteers for the AT Natural Heritage monitoring project got a lesson in plant identification during a Trail U workshop in June.

Annual Fall Workshops Set

Trail Conference club and individual members, as well as non-members, who are interested in acquiring or upgrading a working knowledge of basic trail maintenance or other advanced skills are encouraged to attend our workshops. There will be lectures indoors and field work on hiking trails in the vicinity. Advance registration is required and class size is limited. An information packet will be sent to all registrants shortly before the workshop dates. Unless otherwise noted, the workshops will be held rain or shine.

To register, call the Trail Conference office, 201-512-9348, or visit www.nynjtc.org/workshops/maintainers/. Sign-up is on a first come, first served basis.

Saturday, October 13 Maintenance 101

Location: In the Shawangunks TBD

Sunday, October 14 Water Control Workshop

Location: Ward Pound Ridge Reservation (Westchester)

October 19–22 (Friday through Monday) Stone Cribbing Intensive Workshop

Location: Bear Mountain Trails Project



Gene Giordano (left), AT trail chair for New Jersey, accepts an award on behalf of the Trail Conference from National Park Service Ranger Johnny Carawan at the ATC Biennial Conference at Ramapo. The plaque honors the hard work and dedication of trail volunteers for the AT in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Trail Crew Schedules

September - October 2007

For the latest schedules and additional details, go to nynjtc.org and click on "Trail crews/Work trips."

TBD = To Be Determined

For all trips bring work gloves, water, lunch, insect repellent. In some cases, tools are provided. Contact leaders in advance for meeting times and places. Volunteers must become members of the Conference to participate in these projects. A one-time "guest" participation is allowed, so bring your friends.

NORTH JERSEY WEEKEND CREW

Leader: Sandy Parr, 732-469-5109

Second Sunday of each month

Tackle a variety of projects ranging from trail repair to bridge building in northern New Jersey. Trips start at 9:30am; call for location and details during the week before the scheduled trip day.

NORTH JERSEY WEEKDAY CREW

Leader: John Moran, thornburyhall@verizon.net

This crew covers the NJ Ramapos, Ringwood S. P., northern Wyanokies, and NJ Palisades, among other areas. Its purpose is to respond quickly to immediate needs rather than to schedule definite events far in advance. If you're interested in being on call for this work, contact leader by email.

WEST JERSEY TRAIL CREW

Leader: Monica and David Day
Phone: 732-937-9098 **Cell:** 908-307-5049
Email: westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com
Website: www.trailstobuild.com

Bring your lunch, plenty of water, gloves and sturdy work shoes, and be prepared to get dirty. All tools, materials and training will be provided. Beginners are welcomed on all work trips—and are especially invited to our 'Try-A-Trail-Crew' days (see the schedule below). All events begin at 9am. Please phone the leaders for meeting location and driving directions. There is usually a walk to the work site, so please be there on time (call the leaders' cell phone if you are coming to an event and are running late). Rain cancels; if in doubt, call the leaders between 6 and 6:30 that morning.

September 8 (Saturday)

Terrace Pond North Trail, Wawayanda S. P.
We will begin work on a relocation of the section of the trail that currently runs in the pipeline right-of-way.

Try-A-Trail-Crew Day

September 22 (Saturday)
Warren Trail, Jenny Jump State Park

We will continue work constructing a reinforced side-hill tread for the trail as it descends Jenny Jump Mountain below Rt. 611.

September 29 (Saturday)

Dunnfield Creek Trail, Worthington State Forest
We will begin work on a step-stone crossing of Dunnfield Creek at the site of one of the bridges that was destroyed by Hurricane Ivan.

September 30 (Sunday)

Dunnfield Creek Trail, Worthington State Forest
We will continue work on the step-stone crossing of Dunnfield Creek at the site of one of the bridges that was destroyed by Hurricane Ivan.

Try-A-Trail-Crew Day

October 13 (Saturday)
Terrace Pond North Trail, Wawayanda State Park

We will continue work on the relocation of the section of the trail that currently runs in the pipeline right-of-way.

October 27 (Saturday)

Warren Trail, Jenny Jump State Park
We will continue work on the Warren Trail.

November 3 (Saturday)

Dunnfield Creek Trail, Worthington State Forest
We will continue work on the step-stone crossing of Dunnfield Creek at the site of one of the bridges that was destroyed by Hurricane Ivan.

November 4 (Sunday)

Dunnfield Creek Trail, Worthington State Forest
We will continue work on the step-stone crossing of Dunnfield Creek at the site of one of the bridges that was destroyed by Hurricane Ivan.

NJ HIGHLANDS CREW

Leader: Glenn Oleksak, 973-283-0306, glenn@njl.com

First Sunday of each month

Trips start at 10am. Call, email, or check www.nynjtc.org crew calendar for directions and details of work trip.

METRO TRAILS CREW

Leader: Joe Gindoff, 914-760-3568, joeghiker@aol.com

September 15 (Saturday)

Staten Island Greenbelt
We will continue trail repairs on the Blue Trail, south of the driving range
Meet: 9am at the S.W. LaTourette Golf Course parking lot (front lot)

October 20, (Saturday)

Alley Pond Park, Queens
We're working on erosion prevention on the White Trail
Meet: 9am at the back of PS213, 233rd St. and 67th Ave.

WEST HUDSON SOUTH CREW

Leaders: Chris Ezzo (Crew Chief): 516-431-1148, musicbynumbers59@yahoo.com
Brian Buchbinder: 718-218-7563, brian@grandrenovation.com
Claudia Ganz: 212-633-1324, clganz@earthlink.net
Robert Marshall: 914-737-4792, rmarshall@webtv.net
Monica Day: 732-937-9098, Cell: 908-307-5049, westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com

September 20 (Thursday)

Wildcat Mountain, Sterling Forest State Park
Leader: Bob Marshall

September 22 (Saturday)

Triangle Trail, Harriman State Park
Leader: Claudia Ganz

September 29 (Saturday)

Triangle Trail, Harriman State Park
Leader: Chris Ezzo

October 11 (Thursday)

Wildcat Mountain, Sterling Forest State Park
Leader: Bob Marshall

October 13 (Saturday)

Triangle Trail, Harriman State Park
Leader: Chris Ezzo

October 20 (Saturday)

R-D on Black Mountain, Bear Mountain S. P.
Leader: Monica Day

October 25 (Thursday)

Wildcat Mountain, Sterling Forest State Park
Leader: Bob Marshall

November 3 (Saturday)

R-D on Black Mountain, Bear Mountain S. P.
Leader: Chris Ezzo

November 8 (Thursday)

Major Welch Trail, Bear Mountain State Park
Leader: Bob Marshall

November 10, (Saturday)

R-D on Black Mountain, Bear Mountain S. P.
Leader: Brian Buchbinder

November 15 (Thursday)

Major Welch Trail, Bear Mountain State Park
Leader: Bob Marshall

November 17 (Saturday)

TBD
Leader: Chris Ezzo

WEST HUDSON NORTH CREW

Leaders: Denise Vitale, crew chief: 845-738-2126, WHNTrails@aol.com
Dave Webber: H: 845-452-7238, webberd1@yahoo.com

Storm King State Park

This fall, we will be completing the Stillman Trail bridge-stairs project. We will put the finishing touches on the bridge that crosses a land breach beside a cliff. From the bridge, we will be building steps to scale a nearby ledge. Rock shaping/drilling and carpentry skills will be helpful as well as some traditional stone footing and stair building skills. Rock climbing harnesses and rigging will be needed during some phases of construction. There are also project tasks that can be accomplished by all skill levels.

September 9 (Sunday)

September 22 (Saturday)

October 28 (Sunday)

November 10 (Saturday)

November 17 & 18 (Saturday and Sunday)

EAST HUDSON CREW

Work dates to be announced on website. Sign up for email notification at www.nynjtc.org; click on Trail Crews, then Sign-up for Trail Crew at top of page.

NEW JERSEY APPALACHIAN TRAIL FIELD CREW

Leader: Gene Giordano, trailwork@appalachiantrail-nj.org

Second Saturday of Each Month, April through November

Work begins at 9am and is finished before 4pm. Covers the entire NJ section of the AT, blue-blazed side trails, and shelters. Supplements work by our individual maintainers as requested and for special work projects. Workers bring gloves, lunch, and water; all tools, equipment and training provided. Email leader to be placed on email notification list.

BEAR MOUNTAIN TRAILS PROJECT

Contact: Heidi Adami
adami@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348, ext. 26

Individuals as well as organized groups are welcome, regardless of experience level, to the work trips below. To get involved, register online or contact Heidi Adami. Join one day or a string of days.

September 1 – 3 (Saturday–Monday)

Help with the work of the day.

September 7 – 10 (Friday–Monday)

Help with the work of the day.

September 13 – 17 (Thursday–Monday)

Work alongside the ATC Mid-Atlantic Trail Crew building stone retaining walls, splitting stone, and moving rock and materials with highline and by traditional methods.

September 21, 22 (Friday, Saturday)

Meet: 8:30 am at Cul de Sac on Perkins Drive
Use an overhead rigging system to quarry stone and to construct a tall stone crib wall.

September 20 – 24 (Thursday–Monday)

Work alongside the ATC Mid-Atlantic Trail Crew; see above.

October 4 – 8 (Thursday–Monday)

Work alongside the ATC Mid-Atlantic Trail Crew; see above.

October 12 – 15 (Friday–Monday)

Help with the work of the day.

October 26 – 30 (Friday–Tuesday)

Joint project with the Adirondack Mountain Club Volunteer Trails Program



Learn a variety of trail building skills while working alongside experienced volunteers—Free!

Try a Trail Crew!

Interested in joining a trail crew? Throughout the Hudson Valley and Central Jersey we are planning day-long programs to give you the opportunity to experience trail work first-hand. Work side by side with crew members and learn the basics of trail building. No experience is required; training, tools, and fun are provided! Contact Katy Dieters at dieters@nynjtc.org or by phone 201-512-9348, ext. 17 for dates and registration.

387 Volunteers Made Ramapo 2007 Happen

PHOTOS BY GEORGETTE WEIR EXCEPT WHERE NOTED



LAURIE POTTEGER



LAURIE POTTEGER



Chair – Jane Daniels

Special Projects – Volunteers: Carolyn Canfield, Jim Canfield, Walt Daniels, Salley Decker

Author's Table – George Petty

Campfire – Chair: Gene Giordano

Committee Members: John Pappas, Rich Cahayla

Volunteers: Henry Anderson, Sam Anderson, Keelian Kraetschmer, Spirit Wing, Drew Baumgardt, James Cahayla-Wynne, Michael Cahayla-Wynne, Andrew Giordano, Laura Giordano, Ed Haffy, Joe Higgins, Janet McPhee, Luis Pi-Sunyer, Bob Randhare

Camping – Chair: Gene Giordano

Counsel – Daniel Hoberman; Chris Connolly

Entertainment – Chairs: Steve Kelman and John Pappas

Security – Alan Lash

Volunteers: Larry Brody, Lewis Chap, John Jurasek, Katie Kainsbury, Rich Klein, Jeff Raskin, Avery Rosenfield



Excursions – Chairs: Carolyn and Jim Canfield

Committee Members: David Bennett, Eck Khoon Goh, Elinor King, Arnold Seymour-Jones, Alice Taylor

Excursion Chaperones: Ralph & Jenni Blumenthal, Susan Clark, Katy Dieters, Wayne Frey, Clifford Gerenz, Eck Khoon Goh, Kathlene Grifone, Stephen Gruber, John Hayes, Howard Helms, David Hogenauer, Anita Kientzler, Charles Kientzler, Elliott Koppel, Roy Messaros, Monika Murphy, Gail Neffinger, Kerry O'Brien, Carol O'Keefe, Guy Percival, Jennifer Percival, Paul Schubert, Mary Sive

Excursion Leaders: David Bennett, Rita Cohen, Eck Khoon Goh, Jane Levenson, Hank Perrine, David Sutter, Naomi Sutter, Lanny Wexler

Exhibits – Chairs: Eli Luxenberg and Larry Luxenberg

Volunteers: Adina Luxenberg

Hikes – Chair: Pete Kohlberger

Committee Members: Ellen Blumenkrantz, Suzan Gordon, Patrick McGloin, Richard Seibel, Pete Tilgner, Richard Zinn

Hike Leaders: Kathryn Abdis, Paul Abdis, Lisa Acosta, Estelle Anderson, Jill Arbuckle, Henry Atterbury, William Badinelli, Ralph Balfourt, Diane Bamford, Doc Bayne, Andy Benesch, Hanna Benesch, Ellen Blumenkrantz, Ralph Blumenthal, Phil Botti, Kevin Boyce, Robert Boyle, Bob Boysen, Lynn Brown, C. Burntwood, Ken Card, Dan Chazin, Charlotte Chew, Collins Chew, Roger Coco, Glenn Collins, Sarah Collins, Chris Connolly, Ellen Cronan, Bob Danetz, Jane Daniels, Walt Daniels, Katy Dieters, Frank Dogil, Dave Dosey, Jack Driller, Matt Elling, Mike Feller, Jean-Claude Fouere, Charlotte Fahn, Jakob Franke, Robert Fuller, Matt Garamone, James Gebhard, Jim Gell, Catherine Gemmell, Clifford Gerenz, Joe Gindorf, Gene Giordano, Suzan Gordon, Jim Gregoire, Marty Grossman, Lynn Groves, Steve Gruber, Fred Hafele, James Haggert, Katya Hanson, Carolyn Harting, Gary Haugland, Pete Heckler, Joe Higgins, Dan Hoberman, Dave Hogenauer, Brenda Holzinger, Joshua Howard, Mark Hutchison, Alison Jewett, Bob Jonas, John Jurasek, Mary Ellen Kaza, Phyllis Key, Renée Kombuth, Ned Kuhns, Paul Labounty, Alan Lash, Colin Lauder, Kathie Laug, Mark Lee, Nancy Lentner, Jane Levenson, Terry Loughrey, John Mack, Paul Makus, Harold Marciari, Pat Marcotullio, Paul Margiotta, Leslie McGlynn, Jim McKay, Seth Mckee, Mario Meier, Despina Metaxatos, Bob Moss, Terry Murphy, Natalie Nass, Gail Neffinger, Carol Niedzialek, Bob Novick, Craig Nunn, William O'Hearn, Carol O'Keefe, Don Pachner, Tom Parliment, Guy Percival, Jennifer Percival, Jason Phillips, Priscilla Pogact, Andrew "Driftwood" Racz, Jeff Raskin, Sarah Reinhardt, Nicholas Reitter, Jane Restani, Mona Reynolds, Cal Rizzuto, Ronald Rosen, Weiland Ross, David Rudman, Joe Schachtele, Fred Schneider, Aaron Schoenberg, Luise Schwabe, Richard Seibel, Deanna Selizeta, Joanne Sheron, Bob Sickley, Ollie Simpson, Ike Siskind, Mary Sive, Brian Sniatkowski, Betty Soffer, Stephen Soffer, Malcolm Spector, Chuck Stead, David Steinberg, Susan Sterngold, William Strong, Linda Suarez, Alta Sumner, Rich Sumner, Gary Szalc, Chris Tausch, Richard Taylor, Charlie Tighe, Pete Tilgner, Andrew Tokash, Daniel Van Engel, Shawn Viggiano, Denise Vitale, Bob Ward, Dave Watson-Hallowell, Annette Weber, Richard Weiler, Georgette Weir, Geoff Welch, Eileen West, Larry Wheelock, Gary Willick, Gary Wiltshire, Jim Wright, Ken Zadeck, Richard Zinn, Steve Zubarik, Hank Zulauf

Thank You

Putting on ATC's Biennial Conference Ramapo 2007 was a lot of work, but it was fun. I wish I could personally thank the 387 people who volunteered to make the event a success, some contributing in multiple ways. While the bulk of the volunteers were hike leaders, excursion chaperones, or workshop presenters, the steering committee members, along with members of the committees for hikes, excursions, and workshop, contributed the bulk of the time. It is safe to say that without the many volunteers, the conference would not have happened.

I would like to especially thank three people who were available to help me in a countless ways: Carolyn and Jim Canfield, in addition to running excursions, did many special projects for me, sometimes on short notice; and my husband Walt, who not only did the website, but was a source of ideas, helped solve problems, and answered questions.

Thank you, all.

Jane Daniels
– Jane Daniels, Chair, Ramapo 2007

Hospitality – Chair: Phyllis Stewart

Volunteers: May Deas, Phyllis Key, Terry Kulmane, Reena Mancuso, Phil McLewin, Loretta Menger, Loanis O'Neil, Carol Panzarino, Rebecca Pressman, Marilyn Siskind, Mary Sive, June Slade, Alsa Tilgrath, Charles Tighe, Lanny Wexler

Housing & Food – Chairs: Andy and Hanna Benesch

Logo Goods – Salley Decker, Maureen Edelson, Peter Kennard

Publicity – Chairs: Diane Bamford, Katya Hanson

Volunteers: Henry Atterbury, Carolyn Canfield, Walt Daniels, Sally Decker, Loren Edlin, Steve Edlin, Brian Liszewski, Larry Luxenberg, Georgette Weir, Lanny Wexler, Chew Wong



Quilt Raffle – Carolyn Canfield

Volunteers: Barbara Ackerman, Patricia Gaburo, Katya Hanson, Alfred Leigh, Ann Mattei, Theresa McKay, MaryDell Morrison, Monika Murphy, Joanne Patchin, Marie Taranto, Janice Vicine, Gail Waimon, Joan Weiss



Registration – Chairs: Karen and John Magerlein

Volunteers: Kathryn Abdis, Ralph Balfourt, Bill Barton, Gerry Barton, Danielle Benesch, Danielle Benesch, Jenni Blumenthal, Ralph Blumenthal, Lisa Caplan, Eck Khoon Goh, Nancy Goldner, Dave Hogenauer, Ellie King, Bruce Lucas, Priscilla Lucas, Tom Magerlein, Ed McGroarty, Joel McKenzie, Mary Dell Morrison, Mona Reynolds, Marilyn Siskind, Julie Somers, Charlie Tighe, Gail Waimon, Joan Weiss, Nancy Zoebelin

Give Away Bags Assembly – Coordinator: Gene Giordano

Volunteers: Sue Loughrey, Ashley Renshaw, Breanna Renshaw, Dana Loughrey, Daniel Loughrey, Katie Kingsbury, Lisa Renshaw, Wendy Rothlauf, Girl Scout Troop 568, Girl Scout Troop 283, Girl Scout Troop 58, Boy Scout Troop 96

Safety – Chairs: Rick Savino and Jack Shuart

Medical Volunteers: Tutta Heiliger, Sandra Kovarsky, Mike Sternick, Glenn Catennacci, Frank Piccione, Bob Garofano, Alan Breach, Joyce Breach, Jonny Arroyo, Ryan Miskerg

Signs – Chair: Lanny Wexler

Volunteers: Ken King, Melissa Shumer, Larry Wheelock, Walt Daniels



Silent Auction – Chair: Barbara Kohlberger

Committee Member: Catherine Gemmell

Volunteers: Barbara Ackerman

Transportation – Bob Ward

Technology – Walt Daniels

Treasurer – Allen Grunthal, Herb Hochberg

Volunteer Recognition – Salley Decker

Workshops – Chair: Dan Hoberman

Committee Members: Pete Beck, Walt Daniels, Betty Heald, Carol O'Keefe, Barbara Rall, Karen Rose, Dan VanEngel, Lynn VanEngel

Presenters: Jack Adams, Dick Anderson, Laura Belleville, Danielle Bernstein, Nancy Bristow, Margie Coffin-Brown, Jane Daniels, Walt Daniels, Don Desrosiers, Katy Dieters, JoAnn Dolan, Marty Dominy, Peggy Dressel, Fran Dunwell, East Coast Greenery, Steve Elkinton, Ted Elliman, Mike Feller, Richard Flynn, John Gebbards, Joe Grizzanti, Katya Hanson, Dave Hardy, Gary Haugland, John Hedrick, Jennifer Heisey, Rita Hennessy, Daniel Hoberman, Brenda Holzinger, J.T. Horn, Pete Irvine, John Jacoby, James Johnson, John Jurasek, Lester Kenway, Gary Knackmuhs, MD, Carl Knoch, Lauren Lang, Ed Lenik, John Lopes, Joe Macasek, Jeanne Mahoney, Rich Malizia, Jeffrey L. Marion, Ed McGowan, Hawk Metheny, Michele Miller, Brian Mitchell, Brian Morrell, Bob Moss, Margo Moss, Sally Naser, Eric Nelson, Edward Nieuwenhuis, MD, Darlene Nowak, Don Owen, Lawrence G. Paul, Bob Proudman, Carol Rakowski, Tip Ray, David Rudman, MD, David Ryan, Gail Schneider, Paul Shubert, Mike Schwartz, Kent Schwarzkopf, Kim Simpson, Debra Smith, Kerry Snow, Morgan Sommersville, Ed Speer, Dave Startzell, Matt Stevens, J.R. Tate, Eddie Walsh, Larry Wheelock, Roger Williamson, Hal Wright

Volunteers: Andrea Hoberman, Julie Somers

Youth Program – Chair: Sue Eilers

Volunteers: Marty Cohen, Keith O'Sullivan, Doug Sohn

For their efforts and support, Ramapo 2007 also thanks

ATC Staff – Katherine Edelen, Karen Kinney, and all current ATC staff members who have contributed their ideas, time, and energy

Ramapo College – Pinese Harris and the staffs of Events and Conferences, Athletics, Facilities, Residence Life, and Security

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference – staff liaisons Liz Bleiweiss, Cal Rizzuto, Larry Wheelock, and the rest of the TC staff

Sponsors – Bergen County Parks, Campmor, Ramsey Outdoor



Ramapo 2007 Stats

856 attendees

161 hikes with 1,762 hikers (individuals hiked more than once) and 180 hike leaders

28 excursions with 252 different people registered (on average) for 2.2 excursions each

78 workshops, including 22 at Bear Mountain

52 exhibitors

At the Bear Mountain Trails Project:
57 different volunteers

Contributed 867 hours of service to build, approximately:

300 feet of new southside trail,

180 square feet of stone crib walls on east side,

20 feet of new trail completed on east side, and

10 feet of handicapped-accessible trail

Science & Ecology

Getting to Know the Ferns

By Michael C. Alcamo

As you pass them underfoot, you may not realize that ferns are among the oldest living things on earth.

Long before the dinosaurs, the earth was lush with these plants, many growing 160 feet tall or more. In fact, the Carboniferous Period (360 million–286 million years ago) is sometimes called the “Age of Ferns”; it’s carboniferous because layers of ferns and fern-like plants accumulated and formed the carbon deposits that today we call “fossil fuels.”

Later on in the geologic record, a catastrophe about 65 million years ago wiped out the dinosaurs and most other life. This event is indicated by a layer of clay. Following that layer, the record includes a “fern spike”—as the earth was reforested by the forebears of today’s ferns. You just can’t stop these ferns. They are indefatigable.

Botanically speaking, a fern is “a vascular plant with large, complex leaves with branching venation, and that reproduces by spores.”



Pteridium aquilinum, commonly known as bracken

Within the plant kingdom, ferns are the last plants before we get the seed-bearing plants, but they are no less complex.

What you see of a fern is almost entirely a leaf or leaves. The “stem” is unobtrusive, often running underground as a rhizome. The blade (or frond) includes the stipe (the lower, stem-like portion), the rachis (the “stalk” between the leaflets), the pinnae (the leaflets themselves), and the pinnules (the more intricate elements of the leaflets).

Underneath, you’ll see the diversity and complexity of the two-stage fern reproductive process.

About 100 common species of fern live in the northeastern United States

For example, at the top portion of certain fronds of a *Polystichum acrostichoides* (Christmas fern), you’ll find many orange dots clumped together. These are the reproductive tissue, or sporangia. Sixteen sporangia together form a “sorus” (pl. sori). Since each sporangium contains 64 spores, each sorus contains 1,024 spores. These develop under a layer called the *indusium*. At particular moisture and temperature conditions, the indusium bursts, sending spores the size of a grain of sand flying throughout the area to begin their life cycle.

The fortunate spore will land on moist soil and develop into a *prothallus* (or gametophyte), a small, green, heart-shaped object about half the size of a penny. Beneath the prothallus, two tissues develop: the antheridium releases spermatozoids, which in the presence of water swim to the egg produced by the archegonium. The fertilized egg will then grow into what we recognize as a fern.

A unique chemical receptor appears to have developed to allow the fern to photosynthesize amid the limited wavelengths of light available in the forest understory. Thus, ferns quietly but effectively live their two-stage lives in the shadow of the flowering plants—which the uninformed sometimes refer to as the “advanced” plants.

Ferns are highly diverse in their appearance, habitat, and behavior. They can be soft, spiky, or leafy.

In our area, several are noteworthy. *Asplenium rhizophyllum*, or “Walking Fern,” is frequently found in calcium-rich areas like rock outcroppings. The tip of its fronds may bend over gradually and touch the ground, whereupon the tip will then develop a root-like structure. It thus forms a new fern plant a few feet away, and in this way, “walks” away from its base.

Cliff walls are home to ferns called cliff-brakes, which love the rocky substrate and the sunlight they can find in such a habitat. *Pellaea atropurpurea* (Purple-stemmed Cliff-brake) is a stiff and wiry fern you’ll find on the sides of such cliffs. It has a beautiful deep purple rachis, and small, wing-like pinnae. Underneath, the brown sporangia are found at the very outer margin of the pinnae, which curl over slightly to shelter them.

In semi-marshy areas, you’ll likely see *Onoclea sensibilis* (Sensitive Fern), so named because after the first hint of a frost, it will be the first plant to fade. Interestingly, it has dimorphic leaves: its spores are all on a separate spore-producing structure.

In woody areas, you can find three species of *Thelypteris*. *Thelypteris noveboracensis* (New York Fern) has fronds that taper both at the end and at the base. (A good way to remember this is that “New Yorkers burn the candle at both ends.”) It likes sunny woodland areas. *Thelypteris palustris* (Marsh Fern) is similar but appears in marshy areas. *Thelypteris simulata* (Massachusetts Fern) is very similar to its sisters in the *Thelypteris*



Polystichum acrostichoides, the “Christmas fern,” showing the sori on the underside at the top of the frond.

genera; however, its lowest two pinnae droop downward noticeably.

One of the tallest spleenworts you’ll find in shady woods or well-drained soils is *Asplenium platyneuron* (Ebony Spleenwort). It stands tall and has a black or brown rachis; some of its fronds will be fertile (bearing *sori*), and some will be sterile.

There are about 100 common species in the northeastern United States. A good guidebook like Peterson’s provides an excellent survey.

Trail Conference member Michael C. Alcamo is an amateur naturalist who has previously written for Trail Walker about lichens.

A Trail to Every Classroom



Teacher Kathryn Paulsen with student AT artwork displayed at a trail kiosk.

The Appalachian Trail was the subject for sixth-grade art students from LaGrange Middle School in Dutchess County, NY, who hiked the trail this past academic year and learned drawing and painting techniques as well as the history and purpose of the AT, its value, and its needs. They also learned about the art of John Audubon and how nature was his inspiration. Their art teacher, Kathryn Paulsen, is co-leader of the school’s hiking group, and brought students to hike on the AT at Nuclear Lake.

This project is the result of Ms. Paulsen’s attendance at “A Trail to Every Classroom, Summer Institute 2006,” organized by Rita Hennessy, Outdoor Recreation Specialist with the National Park Service, and co-sponsored by the NPS and Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

The students’ beautiful wildlife paintings are on display at two new AT bulletin boards, at Nuclear Lake and at Route 52. The paintings feature animals, insects, and plants that a hiker might see along the trail.

If the Trail Conference Had a Penny for Every Internet Search...

We could earn a lot of money! How? It’s as easy as choosing the right search engine! Goodsearch, a search engine powered by Yahoo!, will donate money to the Trail Conference for every click you make. If 100 people search two times every day, the Trail Conference can earn \$730 a year. If 1,000 people searched using Goodsearch two times a day, the Trail Conference could earn \$7,300 a year!

Please visit www.goodsearch.com and either download the search toolbar or make Goodsearch your homepage. Be sure to choose the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference as the “Cause I Search For,” and every time you click, you’ll make a difference in our work!



Earth Center Open House

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory is one of the world’s leading research centers examining the planet from its core to its outer atmosphere, across every continent and every ocean. From global climate change to earthquakes, volcanoes, environmental hazards and beyond, Observatory scientists provide the basic knowledge of Earth systems needed to inform the future health and habitability of our planet.

**Saturday, October 6
10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory
of Columbia University
61 Rt. 9W - Palisades, NY 10964

Check our website (www.ldeo.columbia.edu) for event schedules as information becomes available or call 845-365-8998.

Restoration Begins on Beacon Fire Tower

By Andrew Tokash

Hike to the summit of South Beacon Mountain for one of the best views of the Hudson River Valley. The Catskill Mountains lie along the northwest horizon and on clear days a glance southward reveals the Manhattan skyline. The summit provides hikers another attraction—the Mt. Beacon Fire Tower.

Erected in 1931, this 60-foot steel structure was used for decades as a lookout for fires in the local area. Newer technologies made the tower obsolete, and 20 years ago it was supplanted by the Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC). It was destined for dismantling until local volunteers joined together to restore the tower.

“I couldn’t bear to see the tower destroyed,” says Katy Bell Behney, one of the original volunteers. Like many local residents, she has strong ties to the mountain. “My relatives had a farm on the mountain, my father’s ashes are on the mountain, and my great-uncle was the forest ranger who worked in the tower.” And like many hikers, she knows the tower offers a special reward to those who visit the summit.

The restoration group formed in 2001. After several years of limited fundraising, the group received two state grants (initiated by State Senator Stephen Saland, and Assemblymen Tom Kirwan and Joel Miller). The physical restoration began last year, with volunteers fixing the tower footings and prepping the anchor bolts. In May 2007 the group purchased 72 galvanized steel steps. On a cool Sunday morning in June, a work crew replaced two flights of deteriorating wooden steps.

What’s next for the group? They will replace seven more flights of stairs, as well as the landings between each flight. They will restore the cabin that tops the tower. They will assess the structure’s cross members, handrails, and fencing, and do whatever work is required. They are also considering installing an information kiosk and picnic tables on the summit.

Once reopened, hikers will be able to climb to the top to enjoy the spectacular views. “The tower will become a legacy for my children, their children, and future generations,” says Ms. Bell Behney. “It’s the least I can do for the mountain that has given me so much over the years.”

The group hopes to finish the restoration by Columbus Day, and is looking for additional volunteers (especially people with construction and/or steelwork experience). Interested parties can review the group’s website—www.beaconfiretower.org—or email Andy@beaconfiretower.org.

Andrew Tokash is a TC trail maintainer and the chairman of the all-volunteer Mount Beacon Fire Tower Committee.



Volunteer Mike Fasano installs a sign on the Mt. Beacon Fire Tower.

Wednesday, October 3

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, West Orange, NJ. Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319. Meet: 10am at Turtle Back Rock parking, Walker Rd. just in from Northfield Ave. Moderate 4-5 miles in this nicely wooded area.

AFW. The Palisades. Info: www.adventuresforwomen.org. Questions: 973-664-3592. Easy hike. 10am-2pm.

Thursday, October 4

UCHC. Autumn Views on the Hewitt-Butler Trail, Hewitt, NJ. Leader: Katya Hanson, 732-530-5213; call before 3pm on Oct. 3. Meet: 10am at Jennings Hollow parking on Rt. 511 opposite East Shore Dr. Moderately strenuous 9 miles.

Saturday, October 6

TLR. Teatown Trail Maintenance, Ossining, NY. Call 914-762-2912, ext. 110, to make a reservation. Meet: 9am at Teatown Lake Reservation, 1600 Spring Valley Rd., Ossining, NY. Learn trail maintenance basics while helping to maintain Teatown's 15 miles of trails; ages 14 and up; all activity and skill levels welcome.

UCHC. Fanny Highlands, Rockaway Twp., NJ. Leader: Al Verdi, 973-263-8569. Meet: 10am at Fisherman's parking on Split Rock Rd.; call for directions. Moderate to brisk 4 miles with several hills and rocky trails, passing the reservoir, iron furnace, and Beaver Brook; not for beginners.

Sunday, October 7

IHC. Wildcat Ridge, Fanny Highlands, NJ. Leader: Jim McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 9:30am at Wildcat Ridge parking, Rt. 513, Rockaway. Moderate 7-mile hike to the ridge and back, passing Bat Cave and Graffiti Cliffs.

AFW. Stony Lake to Sunrise Mountain, NJ. Info: www.adventuresforwomen.org. Questions: 973-664-3592. Moderate+ hike, about 8.5 miles with some part on the AT. 9am-4pm.

Monday, October 8

RVW. Annual Len Sperl Memorial Hike, Kaaterskill High Peak (3655'), NY. Info: 845-246- 8546 or 845-246-7616. Moderate-plus hike: 9 miles, 6.5 hours. Meet 8am. Inclement weather date following Monday.

Tuesday, October 9

UCHC. Stokes State Forest, Sussex County, NJ. Leader: Joyce Breach, 973-875-4376. Meet: 10am at Sunrise Mountain parking. About 5 miles on hilly terrain; for experienced hikers. Appalachian Trail and other trails.

Wednesday, October 10

UCHC. Eagle Rock, West Orange, NJ. Leader: Irv Auerbach, 973-239-4342. Meet: 10am at restaurant parking; park entrance is off Eagle Rock Ave. Moderate hike, about 5 miles, through this lovely park with a great view.

Thursday, October 11

UCHC. Wawayanda State Park, Sussex/Passaic Counties, NJ. Leader: Kathleen Grifone, 201-891-5161. Meet: 9:30am at Wawayanda ranger station. 7 miles on the Appalachian Trail over the Bearfort Ridge; shuttle required. Moderate climb with nice views.

Friday, October 12

RVW. Maintenance Hike on Thomas Cole, Catskills, NY. Info: 607-363-7267 or 845-338-8772.

Saturday, October 13

UCHC. Watchung Trail Maintenance, NJ. Call Trailside to pre-register at 908-789-3670, ext. 3420. Meet: 9:30am; call for location. Have fun while giving back to the trails. Great way to meet new people while working outdoors. Bring water, work gloves, bag for trash, and clippers/lopping shears if you have them. No experience needed; we'll work till noon.

UCHC. Willowood Arboretum/Bamboo Brook, Morris and Somerset Counties, NJ. Leader: Lynn Gale, 973-763-7230. Meet: 10am at Willowood parking; call for directions. Easy 3-4 mile walk through two estates with interesting gardens, with woods/fields in between. Steady rain cancels.

AFW. Wildcat Ridge, NJ. Info: www.adventuresforwomen.org. Questions: 973-664-3592. Strenuous hike.

RVW. Hand Hollow Conservation Area, New Lebanon, NY. Info: 845-758-6143. Easy hike: 5.5 miles, 4 hours. Meet: 9am. Inclement weather date following Saturday.

Sunday, October 14

IHC. Allamuchy North, NJ. Leader: Ursula Davis, 973-786-7087. Meet: 9am at south end Sussex Branch Rail Trail, Waterloo Rd., Stanhope, NJ. Moderately strenuous hike in Cranberry Lake area.

GAHC. Westmoreland Sanctuary, Mt. Kisco, NY. Leader: Manfred Janowski, 914-428-4573; please call to pre-register. Meet: 10am at Sanctuary parking lot. Easy and moderate hikes.

UCHC. Lewis Morris Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319; call before 9pm. Meet: 10am at Lewis Morris Park, Sunrise Lake, upper parking lot. Moderate hike with some hills and rough spots.

AFW. Breakneck Ridge and Mt. Beacon, NY. Info: www.adventuresforwomen.org. Questions: 973-664-3592. Strenuous hike. 9am-4pm.

Monday, October 15

RVW. Fir (3520') Big Indian (3700') and Eagle (3600'), Catskills, NY. Info: 607-363-7267 or 845-338-8772. Strenuous bushwhack and trail hike. 7 miles, 6 hours. Meet 8am. Inclement weather date following Monday.

Tuesday, October 16

UCHC. Palisades Interstate Park, Alpine, NJ. Leader: Carol O'Keefe, 973-328-7395. Meet: 10am at park administration parking just east of underpass (Palisades Parkway Exit 2; follow signs to police headquarters). 6 miles along top of the Palisades above the Hudson River, with steep descent to the river and several outstanding viewpoints.

Wednesday, October 17

UCHC. Wildcat Ridge, Fanny Highlands, Rockaway, NJ. Leader: Susan Jacobs, 973-402-2555. Meet: 10am at parking on Upper Hibernia Rd. off Rt. 513. Hike up to the hawk watch on the ridge for an early lunch on the trail; spectacular view. Steady rain cancels.

Thursday, October 18

UCHC. Storm King Mountain, NY. Leader: Joyce Breach, 973-875-4376. Meet: 10am at parking on Rt. 9W, 8.5 miles north of Bear Mountain Bridge; must register with leader the day before the hike. Moderately paced 4-5 miles with fair amount of climbing and great views of the Hudson Valley; optional visit to Storm King Museum/Sculpture Gardens after the hike.

AFW. Hook Mountain, Rockland State Park, NY. Info: www.adventuresforwomen.org. Questions: 973-664-3592. Moderate hike. 10am-2pm.

Saturday, October 20

TLR. Fahnestock State Park, Putnam County, NY. Leader: Peter Meskin; call Teatown at 914-762-2912, ext. 110, to make a reservation. Meet: 10am; call for location. 5 miles; moderate/strenuous. Climb Candlewood Hill for fabulous views of fall foliage. Learn about animal behavior and ecology as we hike. Carpool; rain cancels.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Joan Lepseter, 908-273-4188. Meet: 10am at Trailside Nature and Science Center, Coles Ave. at New Providence Rd. Brisk 4-5 miles; suitable for strong beginners. Steady rain cancels.

Sunday, October 21

IHC. Trail Maintenance on Schunemunk Mountain Orange Co., NY. Leader: Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 9am at Taylor Rd. parking, Mountainville, NY. Moderately strenuous. Help us maintain our section of the Long Path and the Lower Jessup Trail. Bring lunch, water, clippers (if you have them), and good work gloves (tools provided). Rain date is Saturday, October 27.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Mimi Solomon, 973-379-3910. Meet: 10am at Tulip Springs parking, Brookside Ave., Millburn. Moderate 2-3 hour hike suitable for intermediate hikers.

AFW. Sterling Forest State Park, NY. Questions: 973-664-3592. Info: www.adventuresforwomen.org. Easy 4.5 mile hike with easy inclines. 10am-2pm.

Monday, October 22

UCHC. Lewis Morris Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Susan Jacobs, 973-402-2555. Meet: 10am at Sunrise Lake parking. Easy 3 miles past Sunrise Lake.

RVW. Rusk Mountain (3680'), Catskills, NY. Info: 845-246-8616. Moderate-plus bushwhack. Meet at 8am. Inclement weather date following Monday.

Tuesday, October 23

UCHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Eck Khooon Goh, 908-790-0939. Meet: 10am at Trailside Nature and Science Center, Coles Ave. at New Providence Rd. Moderate 5-6 miles, hopefully with beautiful fall foliage. Rain cancels.

Wednesday, October 24

UCHC. Ramapo Valley County Reservation, Mahwah, NJ. Leader: Ben Sterman, 201-797-0468. Meet: 10am; park is off Rt. 202 north (I-287 Exit 58). Moderate hike; about 5 miles. A lake, reservoir, and cascading river.

Thursday, October 25

UCHC. Sterling Ridge Fire Tower and Beyond, Sterling Forest, NY. Leaders: Carolyn and Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 10am at Sterling Ridge trailhead off Rt. 17A, Greenwood Lake, NY. Moderately strenuous 8+ miles from Hewitt to Rt. 17A.

Saturday, October 27

AFW. Schunemunk Mountain, NY. Questions: 973-664-3592. Info: www.adventuresforwomen.org. Strenuous hike. 9:30am-4pm.

Sunday, October 28

IHC. Breakneck Ridge and Mt. Taurus, Hudson Highlands State Park, NY. Leader: Roy Williams, 570-828-6207. Meet: 8:30am at Anthony Wayne parking, Harriman State Park, NY, OR 9am at Breakneck Ridge parking, Rt. 9D, Cold Spring, NY. Strenuous climbs to two peaks above the Hudson River with spectacular views this time of year.

GAHC. Mt. Peter, Greenwood Lake, NY. Leader: Helga Nagy, 973-772-2119. Meet: 10am at Greenwood Lake; call for directions. Easy and moderate hikes.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Lee Fanger, 973-376-3160. Meet: 10am at Locust Grove parking across from Millburn RR station. Steady paced 4-5 miles on uneven terrain. Rain cancels.

AFW. Pyramid Mountain, NJ. Info: www.adventuresforwomen.org. Questions: 973-664-3592. Moderate 5 mile hike. 10am-3pm.

Monday, October 29

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Joe McLaughlin, 973-263-2799. Meet: 10am; call for location. Easy, fairly level walk to Washington Rock; about 3 miles.

RVW. Eighth Annual Halloween Club Costume Hike at the Esopus Creek Conservancy, NY. Info: 845-246-8616 or 845-247-0664. 3 miles. DRESS IN COSTUME. Meet: 9am. Inclement weather cancels.

Tuesday, October 30

UCHC. Terrace Pond Fall Foliage, NJ. Leaders: Carolyn and Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 10am at Clinton Rd. Terrace Pond trailhead. Moderately strenuous 7 miles to Terrace Pond to enjoy the color changes.

Wednesday, October 31

UCHC. Trick or Treat at Jockey Hollow National Park, NJ. Leader: Carol O'Keefe, 973-328-7395. Meet: 10am at visitors center. Moderate 4-5 miles in this historic park, looking for ghosts of the past. Bring a treat to share or you may be tricked!

Member Club Profile

The Trail Conference comprises 10,000 individual members and more than 100 member clubs with a combined membership of 150,000 hikers. We invite club representatives to submit photos from hikes or maintenance outings or other events (please set your digital camera for highest resolution). Email your photos, along with complete caption information to: tw@nynjtc.org; put "TW club photo" in the subject line.



Outdoor Single Friends enjoy a view during a hike at the Delaware Water Gap.

Outdoor Single Friends

www.outdoorsinglefriends.com

Outdoor Single Friends of northern New Jersey was born in the early 1990s when a group of outdoor-oriented over-40 singles, dissatisfied with the meet-and-greets of the usual singles scene, decided to create a club that met their own needs. Sixteen years later, 160+ members enjoy a broad range of activities both outdoors and in, primarily in Morris, Sussex, and Warren Counties. Hiking is a mainstay of the OSF schedule, with offerings suitable for beginners through experienced. In addition, members get together to enjoy biking, boating, picnics, and trips to plays, concerts, and museums.

Carol Reese, a Sussex County resident, OSF member for three years, and current

public relations chair, says joining the club was "one of the smart things I've done in my life. I wanted to be active, and here were all these people who wanted to be active too. The people are just great. I've been to many new places with the club. And I've met others who enjoy travel. I have gone to the Galapagos with some of the people I've met in the club, and four of us plan to go to Africa. For me it's been wonderful."

OSF meets the second Sunday of each month. Guests are welcome to attend two events, after which they are asked to join for a modest fee of \$25 per year.

On Sunday, September 9, OSF plans a picnic at Mahlon Dickerson Reservation and invites potential new members to participate. Entry is \$5 for members and guests. For additional information please call 973-663-5822 or visit www.outdoorsinglefriends.com.

Put Your Teenagers in This Picture

Hike'n'Serve Venturing Crew #100 Open House
Sunday, September 16, 2-4 pm
Camp Glen Gray, Mahwah, NJ



Hike'n'Serve Venturing Crew #100, in partnership with the Friends of Glen Gray and the NY-NJ Trail Conference, provides learning, leadership, and fun activities for the next generation of trail maintainers. Come to the open house and join up. Afternoon includes a free college counseling presentation by Barbara Gottesman of College Helps! For young men and women aged 14-20 who have completed the eighth grade; \$75 annual fee. Contact Crew Adviser Judy Murphy for more information, 973-699-5735.

More Venturing Crews Forming in Newark, NJ:

Mountain Mitzvahs – a temple-based Hike'n'Serve Crew
AdVenture Crew – Travel-oriented hiking crew sponsored by the Robert Treat Hotel
For more information, contact Maureen Edelson, 973-632-4895.

Use Your IRA to Make a Tax-Free Gift to the TC

Time is running out for you to take advantage of the Pension Protection Act of 2006. This unique opportunity allows you to make an annual gift to the Trail Conference from your IRA, free from federal taxation.

This great opportunity allows your charitable distribution to satisfy all or part of your required minimum IRA distribution for the year. You can use your IRA to make your charitable gifts this year and avoid federal tax on your required IRA distribution.

Some restrictions apply:

- You must be 70 1/2 years old.
- Tax benefits apply for gifts up to \$100,000 per person.
- This federally tax free distribution is only available through 2007. According to the law, after that, this window of opportunity will be closed.
- Your gift distribution must be made directly to the Trail Conference.
- Only outright charitable gifts can be made (not to a donor advised fund or income gifts such as charitable gift annuities).

You should consult with your financial adviser or accountant to see how the Pension Protection Act can help you.

To inform the Trail Conference that you are making an IRA distribution, please contact Joshua Howard, the TC's membership and development director, at josh@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348, ext. 13.

Hudson Valley Ramble

Hikes and other activities over three weekends in September: 15-16, 23-24, 29-30.

Many hikes are led by members of the NY-NJ Trail Conference and its member clubs.

For the full list of activities, go to www.hudsonrivervalley.com/ramble

Volunteer Classifieds: Get Involved!

Volunteer Opportunities

Unless otherwise indicated, contact Heidi Adami at volunteers@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348, ext. 26.

Quartermaster, Tool Czar

The Trail Conference is looking for a conscientious soul to help us inventory and track our vast storehouse of tools and equipment. This includes rock bars, grip hoists and inclinometers but also GPS's, video projectors and tabletop displays. All of these are purchased with our member's charitable donations, so we want to make sure they are being put to good use and in good condition. If you enjoy keeping good records and have a few hours per month, we want to talk with you.

TW Advertising Wizard

We are looking for a volunteer to manage the communication between *Trail Walker* staff and our current advertisers, solicit new advertisers, and maintain the commitment to excellence that the *Trail Walker* staff has established. Interested volunteers should be comfortable working with deadlines, outgoing, personable over the phone, and patient. Previous advertising and sales experience is not necessary, but helpful. Two to three hours per month. Training will be provided as necessary.

Bear Mountain/Harriman Camp Volunteers

Help us create a great camp experience for our Bear Mountain Trails Project volunteers. Our new camp at Lower Twin Lake in Harriman State Park will be a home base for our volunteers, some of whom travel far distances to donate their time and energy and stay for multiple days, and a place of relaxation during their free time. The Trail Conference has several ways in which you can make our camp a special place for all volunteers. You can volunteer your time or make a donation (See "Amenities" list in next section.)

- Drive volunteers to and from public transportation and/or camp
- Cook meals for volunteers at the end of a long workday
- Help renovate the camp
- Help clean-up/maintain the camp
- Participate in a work day or work trip

Spread Word of the Trail Conference!

Outreach volunteers are needed to attend community events, information tables and health fairs this fall. If you are interested in bringing new people to the Trail Conference and informing the public of our work, please contact the office.

Coordinator, Historic Sign Installation Project

In this project, a volunteer is needed to coordinate the installation of interpretive signs developed by the NYS Historic Sites Interpretation Unit for the 1777 & 1779 Trails in Harriman/Bear Mountain State Parks. The trails retrace the routes taken by the opposing armies during the Revolutionary War. The signs will be available in early October and need to be installed by the end of the year. There are volunteers available for the installation.

It's all About People

Is there an HR professional out there with the time and talent to help build a great organization? With so much demand for what the Trail Conference delivers, we are interested in exploring ways to apply our scarce revenues to staffing in the most effective ways possible. Get in touch with us if you are interested in helping the Trail Conference attract and retain the best team possible.

Trail Maintainers

We are looking for individuals, couples, and families who are willing to adopt a section of trail. Maintainers are expected to visit their assigned section a minimum of twice a year, keeping it passable by cutting back brush, ensuring it is well marked and free of trash, and submitting bi-annual reports of their work. We have openings in several regions, including Catskill Forest Preserve, Ward Pound Ridge, West Hudson North (Black Rock Forest and Minnewaska State Park), Central Jersey, West Jersey, the Long Path and more!

Appalachian Trail Corridor Monitor

Looking to get off the beaten path? Monitors are needed to patrol and watch the Appalachian Trail Corridor to protect against misuse and illegal activities. Responsibilities include: walking the corridor boundaries 2 to 4 times per year, verifying boundary markers along the corridor, reporting evidence of trespassing and misuse, such as dumping, logging, ATVs, etc, assisting Corridor Manager in handling problems discovered, and meeting trail neighbors and easement holders annually.

Data Entry and Clerical Support

With over 104 member clubs, 10,000 individual members, and 1,300 volunteers, the Trail Conference office in Mahwah, NJ is a pretty busy place! Come join us during the week and put your data management and clerical skills to good use. We seek individuals with database experience to assist with running short programs that check data entry for accuracy as well as entering membership info, provide assistance with shipping retail orders, and help coordinate mailings. Contact us today!

Stuff That Would Help the Cause

Transportation!

The Trail Conference needs an eight-passenger vehicle and a pick-up truck to move tools, volunteers, and materials. Without these much needed resources, we are limited in what we can offer. If you have a used vehicle(s) that you would be willing to donate, or access to vehicles that could be leased, please contact: Joshua Howard at 201-512-9348, ext. 13 or josh@nynjtc.org.

Amenities for Our Bear Mountain Project Base Camp

If you can donate any of the following, please contact: Leslie Rapparlie at rapparlie@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348, ext. 28.

- Books, decks of cards or board games for volunteers to enjoy during down time
- A radio
- Folding chairs or beach chairs
- Bicycles
- Sporting equipment like soccer balls, Frisbees, etc.
- Water sport equipment such as kayaks, canoes, inflatable toys, PFDs, etc.
- Camping equipment like tarps, tents, sleeping bags, sleeping pads, etc.
- Firewood for late night campfires
- Tools for use on the trail
- Food for volunteer meals
- A van or pick-up truck for transportation

Old Pack Frames

Our Trail Crews need help hauling heavy tools to work sites. You can volunteer your back OR donate an old pack frame—in good condition please!—that is suitable for converting to heavy-duty use. Contact: Larry Wheelock at wheelock@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348, ext. 16.

DONORS TO THE ANNUAL FUND

May 22, 2007 to July 20, 2007

GIFTS

Steven Alt, Robert & Joan Augello, Jeff Baker, Sue Barbuto, Walter & Elizabeth Barrett, William Bates Jr., Edward M. Behrens, Robert Bender & Loretta Nash, Barbara J. Benjaminson, Walter Bogdewicz, James Canfield, Charity Runners, Inc., Daniel Chazin, William Chiappane, Ray Citera, Julie Clemons, Neil & Katherine Cohen, Michael Crowley, Robert Denzau, Henry Diaz, Allyn Dodd, John Ellingboe & Page Hartwell, Timothy Gallivan, George & JoAnn Gentsch, Mark Goldfield & Mary Hatch, Gary Grasselena, Timothy Gregg, James Gregoire, Kenneth Griffin, John & Marianne Gunzler, James Haggett, Peter Hannan, Kim Hendrickson, Robert Hersch, Robert Houghton, Robert Jonas, Janet Junge, Judy Keith, William & Christina Kelly, David Jonah Klein, Susan Kornacki, Charles M. Gordanier, Brian R. Kunisch, Virginia Kurshan & David Landy, Judy Krusell, Constance Lee, Andrew Lehman, James Lydon, John & Karen Magerlein, Virginia Mattice, Linda McCauley, Lawrence & Doris Merson, Dennis Morgan, Brian Mulraney, Douglas Myer, Herbert Persky, Dorothy Peters, Robert Philpot & Mary Ganim, Johanna Rioux, Roger Roloff, Barbara Petersen, Charles Scheidt, John W. & Patricia Sheppard, Shop.com, Richard Smith, Mike & Peggy Sormani, Richard Sparrow, William Steinmann, Marek Stycos, Jan Summers, Chris Tausch, Peter Tilgner & Suzan Gordon, Howard Tokosh, Alice Tufel, Alan. VanAntwerpen, David & Adrienne Wiese, Thomas & Edith Williams, Patsy & Roy Wooters, Westchester Trails Association

HONORARY GIFTS

For a healthy and beautiful baby
Juaaying Kwong

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of Nat Levin
Norman Karger

In memory of David Deblinger

Margaret E. Chapman, David and Ann Reiner

In memory of Berthe and Bill Myles
Edwin Conrad

DARLINGTON SCHOOLHOUSE FUND

Allyn Dodd, Andrew Lehman, Chris Tausch

In honor of George Becker

Barbara Anne Becker and David Bolotsky

In memory of Colin Fletcher

Robert Jonas

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Robert Havelena, Bernd Lohner

MATCHING GIFTS

Avon Products Foundation, Inc., Earth Share, Prudential Foundation, The New York Times Company

Outreach Intern Wanted

During the first half of 2007, Trail Conference recruitment efforts were expanded and diversified. We now seek an intern to learn the ropes of recruitment. A three month (one semester) commitment is required, with a negotiable work schedule. Work can be done from remote locations. Responsibilities include:

- Provide administrative support for the Education & Outreach Program when necessary.
- Assist in the coordination of community engagement projects and grant initiatives in collaboration with other Education & Outreach staff.
- Contact local education agencies and departments with regard to the Bear Mountain Trails Project, trail crew recruitment, and projects as needed.
- Assist in the implementation of outreach events and activities.
- Participate in regular Outreach staff meetings.
- Review department website and make content changes when appropriate.
- Maintain internet based recruitment program.
- Stay informed on station activities and cooperate with all departments.
- Other related duties as assigned by the volunteer and membership associate.

Interested? Contact Katy Dieters at dieters@nynjtc.org or by phone at 201-512-9348, ext. 17 to set up an interview.

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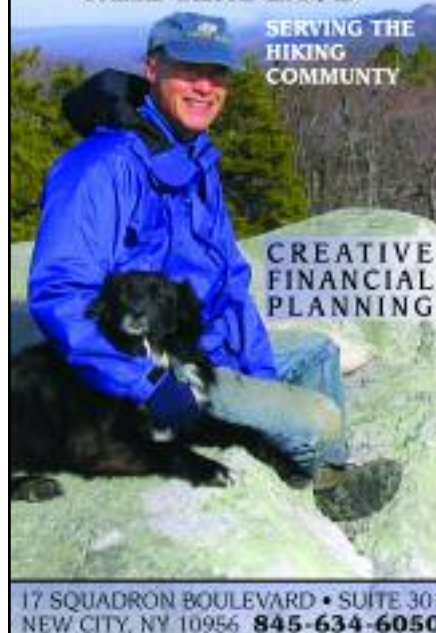
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TRAIL NEWS

continued from page 4

New 3-Mile Trail in Catskills

See page 1.

New Blazed Trail at Minnewaska

Dave Webber, Shawangunk trails supervisor, reports that a new 0.6-mile white-blazed trail at Minnewaska State Park Preserve connects the Peters Kill parking area to the High Peters Kill Trail near Dickie Barre. The trailhead for what has been named the Bull Wheel Trail is about 0.1 mile from the parking area along the Peters Kill Loop trail. The Bull Wheel Trail appears on the Shawangunk Trails map #105 as an unmaintained path.

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GEAR CHECK

An occasional series that will review gear appropriate for hiking.



HYDRO-PHOTON, INC.

SteriPEN, portable water purifier
Suggested retail price: \$129.95
Reviewed by Howard E. Friedman, DPM

The first time I dipped my 10-ounce plastic mug into a cold stream in Ramapo Mountain State Forest and treated it with the SteriPEN water purifier, I paused before taking a drink. I peered into the cup to look for any tiny organisms still swimming in my drinking water. Not seeing any, I drank the entire cupful. Even with my nervous pause, from dipping to drinking took just a couple of minutes.

The SteriPEN Adventurer device is a four-ounce battery-powered ultraviolet light device verified to kill 99.99% of the bacteria, viruses, and protozoa responsible for causing water-borne sickness (including E.coli, staphylococcus, giardia, and cryptosporidium) without affecting the taste of the water in any way.

It will purify 16 ounces of water in 48 seconds and up to one liter of water in 90 seconds. The user selects the shorter or longer purification cycle, and the device turns itself on when fully immersed. It automatically shuts off when the cycle is completed, and it can be used in any type of container, such as a plastic or metal cup, pot, or water bottle.

SteriPEN has been repeatedly tested both in the laboratory and in the field. Hikers have been using it on long-distance thru-hikes, including on the Appalachian Trail. Although calibrated for use with clear water, new research demonstrates the device to be effective even in turbid water. However the time required for purification may increase, and the manufacturer recommends filtering out particulate matter (such as leaves or other debris). SteriPEN does not treat or remove toxic chemicals (such as lead or mercury). However, neither do other accepted purification methods, such as iodine tablets or boiling.

I used SteriPEN to purify water from different water sources on several visits to Ramapo Mountain State Forest. I tried to draw water from a flowing source and avoided standing or turbid water. In each case, I found the device easy to use, quick, and lightweight.

The product I tested uses two lithium batteries. SteriPEN recommends using rechargeable batteries and estimates they will be good for 40-50 treatments of a 16-ounce size container (100 treatments with non-rechargeable batteries). The manufacturer also offers a carrying case, which includes a solar panel for recharging a second set of batteries. For more information about SteriPEN, go to www.steripen.com.



Rating: 5 boots out of 5

Book Review

Best Hikes with Dogs New Jersey By Mary Jasch

Best Hikes with Dogs New York City and Beyond By Tammy McCarley



The Mountaineers Books, both published 2007

Reviewed by Susan Sterngold

Hiking with dogs is surprisingly controversial in the New York-New Jersey metro area. A dog owner who is just beginning to hike with groups can be shocked to learn that dogs are unwelcome on most club hikes. These two books, both well written and well organized, provide support and guidance for such hikers who therefore choose to go out on their own or with friends and wish to explore new areas.

The New York book covers New York City, Westchester, Putnam, Orange, Ulster, and Rockland Counties, and Long Island. Coverage is most comprehensive for Westchester, Putnam, and Long Island. The New Jersey book tries to cover the whole state, but most hikes are north of Princeton. Both authors have done their homework, and it is obvious they have done a good deal of local hiking with their dogs.

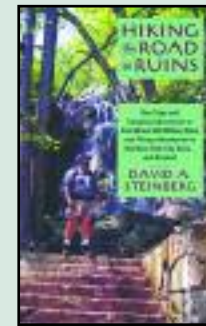
What makes a good hiking book and what needs to be added in order to make it useful to dog owners? Much of what is written in these guides is good common sense and would be included in any hiking book—be considerate, leave no trace, info on ticks and snakes, tips/lists on gear and clothing. Features that make these books useful for dog owners include noting the presence of water, the suitability of trails for most dogs in good health, and dog-relevant rules and regulations of area parks.

Each book describes 50 (or more) hikes. I thought the hike descriptions, maps, and details in both were well done. In her New York book, Tammy McCarley suggests that hikers write down the phone number of the nearest 24-hour emergency veterinary hospital in the area where they plan to hike; she also lists these facilities in each hike description. The New Jersey guide does not include this very useful and important information. I know of recent incidents in which dogs were hurt on hikes, one by a snake and one in a fall.

No book can be everything to every person. I recommend both these books for both new and experienced hikers who have dogs.

Susan Sterngold hikes with her Belgian sheepdogs and the dog friendly group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/harrimanhike>.

Hiking the Road to Ruins



By David A. Steinberg
Rivergate Books, 2007
Reviewed by John Mack

A good description of David Steinberg's new guide is provided on its cover: "Day Trips and Camping Adventures to Iron Mines, Old Military Sites, and Things Abandoned in the New York City Area and Beyond." The 23 chapters describe outings within a two-hour drive of New York City, ranging from easy to challenging and of 1 or 2 miles to 10 miles in length. An exception is the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal trip between Washington D.C. and Cumberland, Maryland, written as a bike and camping trip of 184.5 miles each way.

The author has clearly spent years and many trips exploring and searching for the numerous features to which he guides us. Each chapter includes a sketch map of the hike and sharp black-and-white photos, primarily of the various mines and sites rather than of broad scenery.

Turn-by-turn directions are provided, plus GPS locations for the features. Paths to features tend to be convoluted, and in a couple of the chapters the narrative is difficult to follow; the sketchy maps, without scale, do not always clarify matters. Although faint paths are helpfully noted, and guidance is provided, some confusion in the field can be expected. In planning to follow these excursions, it would be advisable to first study the descriptions carefully, compare them with a current map (the author at times refers to maps now outdated), be sure to take with you the book, the map, and a compass, and plan extra time. While neither serious nor confusing, some errors were noted in the maps (e.g. the Catskill Aqueduct labeled as the Croton Aqueduct in Chapter 6).

Steinberg's guide is useful and enjoyable; the author employs a pleasant, conversational style, as if he were with you. Books such as this help answer the question: Where might I plan a hike for next weekend? The seven chapters of trips with which I am not familiar have made me want to go, and the others encourage me to return. Several references are provided, and praise of the Trail Conference maps is generous. Recommended if you agree with the author "that hiking to goals is more rewarding than just ambling around a circuit."

John Mack is trail chair of the West Hudson South committee and an avid explorer of ruins, including our region's iron mines and Mayan ruins of Central America. He was instrumental in developing the Hasenclever Iron Trail in northern New Jersey and is helping to define the route of the planned Iron Belt Trail in the Jersey Highlands.

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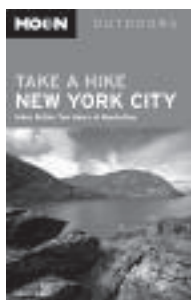
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Favorite Hike



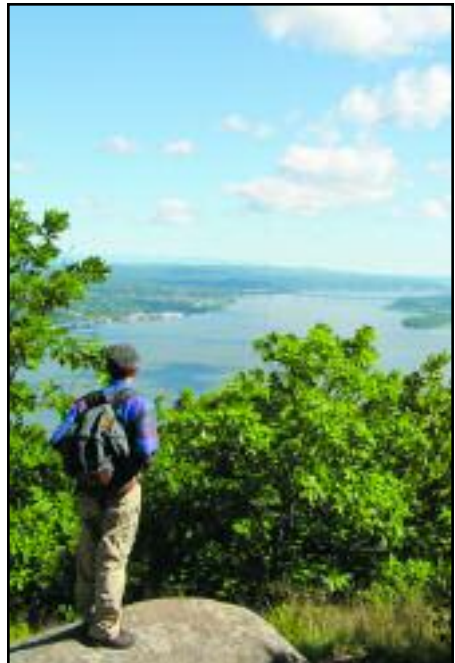
By Georgette Weir

Ups and Downs on Storm King

No sign welcomes visitors to Storm King State Park. It's possible, in fact, to whiz along Route 9W north of West Point, admiring the scenery and quick views of the Hudson River 1,300 feet below and remain unaware that you are looking out through a state park at all.

Yet with its combination of woods and exposed primeval rock that arcs precipitously into the Hudson River, Storm King State Park is one of our most dramatic parks. Those who enjoy stretching their legs on rugged rambles will be rewarded with some of the best views anywhere, not just in the Hudson Valley. Don't take my word for it; several hikers from Virginia who joined our ATC-Ramapo 2007 hike on July 15 declared the views from Storm King some of the best they had ever seen—and this on a day when high humidity and ozone blocked the usually more expansive views north to the Shawangunks and Catskills.

Loops of various lengths separately explore the twin high points of the park, Storm King Mountain and the north slope of Crows Nest. The Howell Trail extends up and down the long, steep sides of the clove that separates these two high zones and links them, making possible this strenuous day-long hike of about 7 miles with a total elevation gain of 1,700 feet.



GEORGETTE WEIR

On a clear day, the view north extends over Newburgh Bay to the Catskill Mountains.

Start at the bottom of the mountain at a parking area on Route 218 across from the trailhead for the Stillman Spring Trail. Take that trail (blazed white and to the north of the dripping spring and commemorative, engraved stone) 0.7 mile to the blue-blazed Howell Trail. Turn north onto the Howell Trail and follow it up 700 feet and 0.9 mile to the saddle between Butter Hill and Storm King. Turn left on the yellow- and teal-blazed Stillman/Highlands Trails to reach the summit of Butter Hill and a 360-degree view that includes the Shawangunks, Catskills, Schunemunk Mountain, and Hudson River and its Highlands.

Backtrack to the previous intersection and follow the trail marked teal and yellow to the summit of Storm King and more spectacular views. At the intersection with the white trail, turn right onto it and begin heading down and back to the blue-blazed Howell Trail. Descend it through the Clove, and turn right when you return to the intersection with the Stillman Spring Trail. Here the Howell Trail is a woods road blazed blue. Follow this up another 700 feet—not as steep or as rugged as the first climb up Storm King Mountain. Keep a look-out for the turn-off left toward the exposed ridgetop. (If you miss the turn-off, as we did on our first outing here, you will find yourself on the white-blazed Bobcat Trail.) You will traverse areas of grass and blueberries (in season) before returning to woods, with fabulous views all along. The descent back to the springs and parking is very steep.

Highlights: Fabulous, fabulous views; varied landscapes; strenuous

Notes: Parking areas are limited. Toilet facilities are nonexistent. No maps on site. Hunting is restricted. Dogs permitted but must be leashed.

Access: Trailhead parking for Stillman Spring Trail is on Route 218, about one mile north of the Lee Gate at West Point. There are small parking areas on both sides of the road at the spring and additional ones both north and south of the trailhead.

Map: # 113 of the West Hudson Trails set (2006, NY-NJ Trail Conference publisher)

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